

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 11409 240633Z

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UNCLAS TEHRAN 11409

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, USIRJC

SUBJECT: SOUTH CAROLINA IOGA TRADE MISSION

REF: STATE 264266

1. WE ASSUME THAT REQUEST FOR TEHRAN'S COMMENTS AS INFO ADDRESSEE RE PROPOSED SUBJECT MISSION REFLECTS SOUTH CAROLINA'S DESIRE TO CONSIDER INCLUSION TEHRAN AS ALTERNATIVE TO ONE OF FOUR STOPS LISTED PARA 2 RFTEL.

2. ALTHOUGH TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE NO TRADE MISSIONS CURRENTLY PLANNING APRIL STOP TEHRAN, USTC SPONSORING DBILDEX APRIL 24-28. POST HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PROPOSED INDIANA MISSION DEFER MARCH STOP NOW TIMED FOR NO-RUZ HOLIDAY PERIOD TO SOMETIME IN MID-APRIL AND IF INDIANA GROUP SHIFTS TIME, OVERLAP MAY DEVELOP IN APRIL PERIOD. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT IN PAST 18 MONTHS BUSINESSMAN REPRESENTING COMPANIES WITH THIS TYPE OF EXPERTISE HAVE SATURATED MARKET AND, GENERALLY SPEAKING ONLY THOSE VERY LARGE FIRMS WHICH ALREADY HAVE INTERNATIONAL REPUTATIONS AND EXPERIENCE HAVE FARED SATISFACTORILY.

3. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, MOMENTUM IN AWARDING AND IMPLEMENTING MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS HAS SLOWED VIRTUALLY TO A HALT. THERE ARE SOME EXPECTATIONS THAT AFTER CURRENT BUDGET CYCLE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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GOI COMPLETION OF REVIEW OF PRIORITIES (TENTATIVELY NEW YEAR--

MARCH 21) FUNDS MAY AGAIN BE ALLOCATED TO A DEGREE WHERE THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, AS REFLECTED BY THE INCIDENCE AND TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, WILL MOVE FORWARD INTO A MORE RATIONAL PHASE. ACCORDINGLY, BUSINESS POSSIBILITIES MIGHT EMERGE DURING SPRING-SUMMER PERIOD FOR A GROUP EMPHASIZING DESIGN, PLANNING, ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION, ETC. FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

4. FINAL JUDGMENT ABOUT THE UTILITY OF A GROUP MISSION ON THIS THEME SHOULD BE RESERVED UNTIL THE RESULTS OF BUDGET REVIEW AND REORDERING OF PRIORITIES BECOMES CLEARER. WE ASSUME THAT MISSION ORGANIZER WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH TRANSPORTATION STUDY GROUP OF US-IRAN ECONOMY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF JOINT COMMISSION IN ASSESSING POTENTIAL AND RECRUITING MOST SUITABLE PARTICIPANTS IF DECISION IS MADE TO PROCEED.

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